

CITY OF BALTIMORE
Sheila Dixon, Mayor



Baltimore City Fire Department
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PRESS RELEASE

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Fire Department Officials, BCCC Sign MOU to Begin Fire Department Degree Program

Recruits Earn Credit toward Associate's Degree in Fire Science Technology at Academy

Baltimore, MD – Today, the Harbor Campus of Baltimore City Community College served as the setting for a historic agreement between Baltimore's community college and fire department which provide opportunities to firefighter recruits never available before through the Baltimore City Fire Department Degree Program.

The days of defining a firefighter solely as someone who fights fires is over. Today, firefighters are also paramedics, community relations experts and eventually, many become managers. The functions and tools of the 21st century fire department require new skills, continued training and education. A better educated membership means a more adaptable department, with the functionality required to meet the public safety challenges of a major city in today's world.

To help meet these new challenges and to ensure there is a continuously growing talent pool to draw upon in the management of the Department, BCFD has developed the Fire Department Degree Program. Over the better part of the past year, by partnering with Baltimore City Community College, we have developed a college curriculum for an Associate's Degree in Fire Science Technology.

Beginning in 2007, all coursework the recruits complete while at the fire academy, including Firefighting I, Firefighting II, Emergency Medical Technician Basic and Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate, will be transferable to Baltimore City Community College as college credits.

"Today's agreement will not only ensure the opportunity for the department to draw from a pool of talent for years to come, but also that our recruits will have a two steps up to obtain the dream of a college education," said Chief William J. Goodwin, Jr. during today's events.

Now, upon graduation from the fire academy, BCFD Firefighter/Paramedic Apprentices will have about two semesters' worth of college credits, or about one-third of what he or she needs to receive an associate's degree.

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